GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1188
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
OUTBREAK OF MALARIA IN ASSAM
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total population affected and number of deaths reported in the recent outbreak of Malaria in Assam;

(b) the additional Central assistance granted to control the outbreak indicating future provision made to prevent such a recurrence;

(c) whether non-utilization of allocated fund and inadequacy of preventive and surveillance work alongwith shortage of staff contributed towards the outbreak;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken to ensure deployment of various categories of staff as well as spraying equipment and squad;

(f) whether the Government is planning to provide ex-gratia grant to the affected families; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a): The State of Assam is endemic for malaria. The district wise malaria situation in the state of Assam during the last three years is enclosed at Annexure-I. During the recent outbreak of malaria the most affected districts were Lakhimpur followed by Golaghat, Karbi-Anglong & Kamrup (Annexure-I A).

(b): The Government of India provides 100% financial assistance to Assam to meet the operational cost of implementation of the programme as well as all commodities required to support the programme. Thus, since 1994, the Government. of Assam is being supplied anti-malarial drugs and DDT for indoor residual spray as per technical requirement of the state. Implementation of programme including monitoring and supervision is the responsibility of the state. Cash assistance and commodity support provided to the state during the last three years is enclosed at Annexure-II and III.

The state of Assam is also being provided additional support under Global Fund supported AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Intensified Malaria Control Project since July, 2005. This support is to augment anti-malaria activities such as awareness generation, training of Community Volunteers, treatment of bed nets with insecticide, distribution of bed nets to BPL population, distribution of SP-ACT for fever cases and in drug resistance areas, treatment of severe and complicated malaria cases with arteether injection and enhancing diagnostic capability in the remote and inaccessible areas by supply of rapid diagnostic kits.

During the recent outbreak additional support provided to the state as indicated below has been provided:

S.No	Item	Quantities Supplied
1	DDT (in MT)	900
2	Chloroquine (in lakh)	80
3	Primaquine 7.5 mg (in lakhs)	5
4	Primaquine 2.5 mg (in lakhs)	35
5	Quinine Injection (in nos.)	50650
6	Sulphadoxine-Py. Combination	156800
7	Combiblister packs (Chloro+prima) in lakhs	2.08
8	Malathion Technical (l)	500
9	SP Flow in litres	4450
10	Bednets	200000
11	Arteether injection	11080

12 RD Kits 10000
13 Paracetamol Tablets 5.39
in lakhs
14 Temephos in litres 100
15 Fention in litres 200
16 Stirrup Pumps 47

Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) has been closely monitoring the malaria situation in the state. The Director General of Health Services and Director, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme visited the state for on the spot review of the situation and discussions with the State Authorities on the prevention and control of malaria. Teams from the Regional Offices of Shillong and Guwahati are still positioned to monitor the daily situation. A team has also been deputed from ROH&FW, Patna to assist the state. Enhanced logistics supply to the state was also provided to deal with the situation.

(c) & (d): Surveillance work has been inadequate leading to persistence of parasite pool in the community due to untreated cases. In the State, 320 MPW (M) are in position against the sanctioned strength of 638. The shortage of workers is responsible for poor surveillance and inadequacy of preventive and surveillance work. The allocation of funds and unutilized amount out of the cash assistance provided by GOI to the state is enclosed at Annexure-lll.

(e): As per the information obtained from Director Health Services, Assam, the deployment of various categories of staff as well as purchase of spray equipment by the state Govt. are under process. The state Govt. has engaged 678 spray squads for 1st round and 625 squads for 2nd round in 2006 for a period of 75 days in each round.

(f) & (g): The implementation of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme is the responsibility of the State, however, there is no such proposal under consideration with the Government.